

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for delivering a treatment, comprising:
generating a personal area network associated with a patient, wherein said personal area network is generated by a transmitter adapted to transmit signals through said patient's body using electrical properties of said body, and wherein said personal area network is to transmitting a patient identifier associated with said patient, wherein said patient identifier is a unique identifier assigned to identify said patient;
retrieving treatment data associated with said patient identifier; and
operating a treatment device pursuant to said treatment data.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said treatment data is stored in at least one of:
a system controller;
said treatment device;
a network device.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said patient identifier is encrypted.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said treatment device includes a communications device in communication with a processor for processing data received by said communications device.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said treatment device includes a sensor, said sensor in communication with said processor.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said treatment device is at least one of: a thermometer, an IV, a blood pressure cuff, an EKG, an EEG, a fluid sensor, a food tray, a tray, an operating table, a needle, a patch, a vial, a bottle, a blade, a knife, a scalpel, a clamp, a stent, a prosthesis, a catheter, a tube, an intubator, a medicine bottle, sphygmomenometer, a toxicity

screening device, a chemical sensor, a spectrometer, a respiration rate measurement device, an MRI, a CT device, and a diagnostic device.

7. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said communication device is adapted to send and receive data over said personal area network.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said communication device is adapted to communicate with a controller via a communications network.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said controller includes a communications device and a storage device each in communication with a processor, said storage device storing patient data and treatment data.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
performing a verification based on at least one of said patient identifier or ~~and~~ said treatment data, to determine if said treatment can be delivered.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said verification further comprises:
determining if said treatment data is consistent with information about said patient.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said verification further comprises:
determining if said treatment data is consistent with accepted treatment protocols.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said operating said treatment device further comprises operating said treatment device to perform at least one of:

refraining from delivering full treatment;

signaling an alarm;

signaling an alert;

not performing treatment;

modifying treatment;

initiating an application;

- initiating a human interaction;
recording initiation of treatment;
recording data;
performing intermediate steps; ~~or~~ and
concluding treatment.
14. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
alerting a provider of a condition of said patient.
15. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
communicating, via said personal area network, with a second treatment device.
16. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
verifying that said treatment was properly delivered by said treatment device.
17. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising:
forwarding a confirmation to a treatment prescriber indicating that said treatment data
was properly delivered.
18. (Cancelled)
19. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said transmitter is configured as at least one
of:
a bracelet, a necklace, a card, a ring, and a molecular tag.
20. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining a diagnosis of said patient prior to said operating said treatment device.
21. (Currently amended) A method for delivering a treatment to a patient, comprising:
detecting, via a personal area network generated by a transmitter adapted to transmit
signals through a patient's body using electrical properties of said body associated with said

patient, a patient identifier, wherein said patient identifier is a unique identifier assigned to identify said patient;

associating said patient identifier with a treatment, said treatment defined by a set of treatment data; and

determining if said treatment should be delivered to said patient.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein said determining further comprises:
retrieving patient data including medical data regarding said patient; and
comparing said patient data with said set of treatment data to determine if a conflict exists.
23. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
delivering said treatment to said patient.
24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein said delivering further comprises:
operating a treatment device in accordance with said treatment data, and wherein said detecting is performed using said treatment device.
25. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein said treatment is selected from the group consisting of:
administering a shot, an oral medicine, an intravenous drip, a cut, an inflation, an electrical impulse, a pacemaker, an electroshock, a catheterization, insertion of a stent, and insertion of a tube.
26. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein at least one of said patient data and said treatment data are stored in a device in communication with said treatment device over a communications network.
27. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein at least one of said patient data and said treatment data are stored in a network device in communication with said treatment device over said personal area network.

28. (Currently amended) A method for delivering a treatment to a patient, comprising:
detecting, ~~by using~~ a treatment device, a patient identifier, ~~said patient identifier~~
transmitted over a personal area network associated with said patient, wherein said personal area network is generated by a transmitter adapted to transmit signals through said patient's body using electrical properties of said body, and wherein said patient identifier is a unique identifier assigned to identify said patient;
retrieving patient information associated with said patient identifier, wherein said patient information at least includes treatment data associated with a treatment; and
~~forwarding treatment data associated with said patient identifier to said treatment device~~
delivering, by said treatment device, said treatment to said patient.
29. (Cancelled)
30. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein said treatment device includes a sensor adapted to detect a condition associated with said patient.
31. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein said treatment device is a needle, said sensor is a bar code reader for reading a label of a medication, and said condition is required data on said label.
32. (Currently amended) A system for providing health care, comprising:
a personal area network for facilitating communication of data via a patient's body[[,]]; and
an intelligent treatment device for facilitating a health care service via the communication of data, wherein the facilitating at least includes performing a cross-check based at least on a patient identifier received via the personal area network prior to initiating an action, wherein the patient identifier is a unique identifier assigned to identify the patient.
- 33-34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently amended) The system of claim [[34]] 32, wherein the action is selected from the group consisting of refraining from action, performing treatment, signaling an alarm, signaling an alert, not performing treatment, modifying treatment, initiating an application, initiating a human interaction, recording initiation of treatment, recording data, performing intermediate steps, and concluding treatment.

36. (Currently amended) The system of claim [[33]] 32, wherein the treatment device is selected from the group consisting of an IV device, a blood pressure device, an MRI, an EKG, an EEG, a medicine container, a fluid control device, a pulse measuring device, a thermometer, a sensor, a needle, and a patch.

37. (Currently amended) A method of handling data associated with a health care patient, comprising:

associating a patient with a personal area network, wherein the personal area network is generated by a transmitter adapted to transmit signals through said patient's body using electrical properties of said body;

assigning a unique patient identifier to the patient to identify the patient;

recording data associated with the patient[[,]]; and

associating the data with a record for the patient in a database, wherein said record is identified at least by the patient identifier.

38. (Original) The method of claim 37, wherein the data is obtained via the personal area network.

39. (Original) The method of claim 37, further comprising providing a sensor to sense a condition of the patient, wherein the sensor has a communication facility for communication via the personal area network.

40. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein the sensor senses at least one of blood pressure, temperature, pressure, vapor content, moisture, blood oxygen level, blood content,

Patent

blood alcohol content, toxicity, chemical content, respiration content, food consumption, urine content, waste content, pulse, respiration rate, and electrical activity.

41. (Currently amended) A method of facilitating a health care service, comprising:
providing a processor for a personal area network, wherein the personal area network is generated by a transmitter adapted to transmit signals through said patient's body using electrical properties of said body and configuring the processor to facilitate communication with an intelligent health care device.

42. (Currently amended) A method for treating a patient, including:
generating a personal area network associated with said patient, said personal area network generated by a transmitting device adapted to transmit signals through said patient's body using electrical properties of said body;
establishing communication between said transmitting device and a treatment device via said personal area network; ~~and~~
transmitting treatment data between said transmitting device and said treatment device;
and
determining if said treatment data is associated with said patient by comparing a patient identifier associated with said transmitting device with a patient identifier associated with said treatment data.

43-45. (Cancelled)

46. (Original) The method of claim 42, further comprising:
determining if said treatment device is appropriate for said patient.

47. (New) A system to automatically ensure proper medical treatment is provided to a patient, comprising:
a transmitter adapted to transmit signals through a patient's body using electrical properties of the patient's body;

a Personal Area Network (PAN) established around the patient's body by the transmitter, wherein the PAN is to provide a unique patient identifier assigned to identify the patient; and
an intelligent medical treatment device coupled to the PAN to receive the unique patient identifier and to cross-check the unique patient identifier with stored patient information to ensure that any treatment provided by the intelligent medical treatment device is appropriate for the uniquely identified patient.

48. (New) The system of claim 47, wherein the transmitter is operable to establish the PAN and transmit the unique patient identifier by utilizing power realized from a difference in potential between two electrodes associated with the patient's body.

49. (New) The system of claim 47, wherein the unique patient identifier comprises personal information associated with the patient.

50. (New) The system of claim 49, wherein the personal information comprises at least one of a social security number, a health insurance identifier, a name, an address, an age, a personal medical history, or a next of kin.